

I am writing to ask you to please restore funding for the Even Start Program, which has been eliminated as part of the CT budget. I have been a paraprofessional in Even Start for 6 years. Even Start is a model program, which provides adult education and NAEYC-accredited infant/toddler care in one building. Parents are able to complete their high school education, explore employment options through our college and career center, and spent time during the day with their young children. Even Start also provides wrap around services, such as connections to Birth to 3, introductions to community services, and transitions to preschool readiness slots. I have seen first hand over these 6 years how Even Start has transformed the lives of hundreds of families who have come through our doors. Please restore funding to this one-of-a-kind program that serves our most vulnerable and needy citizens.

Thank you.

Laura Beeler, Paraprofessional, Even Start Middletown